

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BERKLEY NATIONAL INSURANCE
COMPANY,

Plaintiff,

v.

LAWRENCE GABRIEL NORA, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:25-cv-02155-FLA (SSCx)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY
ACTION SHOULD NOT BE
DISMISSED FOR LACK OF
SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION**

1 Federal courts are courts of “limited jurisdiction,” possessing only “power
2 authorized by the Constitution and statute[.]” *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of*
3 *Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994); U.S. Const. art. III, § 2, cl. 1. Courts are presumed to
4 lack jurisdiction unless the contrary appears affirmatively from the record. *See*
5 *DaimlerChrysler Corp. v. Cuno*, 547 U.S. 332, 342 n. 3 (2006). Additionally, federal
6 courts have an obligation to examine jurisdiction *sua sponte* before proceeding to the
7 merits of a case. *See Ruhrgas AG v. Marathon Oil Co.*, 526 U.S. 574, 583 (1999).

8 Federal courts have jurisdiction where an action arises under federal law or
9 where each plaintiff’s citizenship is diverse from each defendant’s citizenship and the
10 amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs. 28 U.S.C.
11 §§ 1331, 1332(a). A complaint filed in federal court must contain “a plausible
12 allegation that the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional threshold.” *Dart*
13 *v. Cherokee Basin Operating Co. v. Owens*, 574 U.S. 81, 89 (2014). Where a party
14 contests, or a court questions, a party’s allegations concerning the amount in
15 controversy, both sides shall submit proof, and the court must decide whether the
16 party asserting jurisdiction has proven the amount in controversy by a preponderance
17 of the evidence. *Id.* at 88–89; *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3) (“If the court determines at
18 any time that it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action.”).
19 The same procedures apply when the existence of complete diversity of the parties is
20 called into question. *See, e.g., Verb Tech. Co. v. Baker & Hostetler LLP*, Case No.
21 2:21-cv-06500-ODW (MAAx), 2021 WL 4125207, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 9, 2021).

22 The court has reviewed the Complaint and is presently unable to conclude it has
23 subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a). In particular,
24 and without limitation, the court finds the Complaint does not state sufficient facts to
25 establish the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000. *See Dart*, 574 U.S. at 88–89.


26 Accordingly, the parties are ORDERED to SHOW CAUSE, in writing only,
27 within fourteen (14) days from the date of this Order, why this action should not be
28 dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The parties are encouraged to submit

1 evidence and/or judicially noticeable facts in response to the court's Order.
2 Responses shall be limited to ten (10) pages in length. The parties should consider
3 this Order to be a two-pronged inquiry into the facial and factual sufficiency of
4 Plaintiff's demonstration of jurisdiction. *See Leite v. Crane Co.*, 749 F.3d 1117, 1122
5 (9th Cir. 2014).

6 As Plaintiff is the party asserting federal jurisdiction, Plaintiff's failure to
7 respond timely and adequately to this Order shall result in dismissal of the action
8 without further notice.

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10 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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12 Dated: May 22, 2025

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15 FERNANDO L. AENLLE-ROCHA
16 United States District Judge
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